

## IN THE CLAIMS:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended): An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 95%[[90%]] identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or to the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-2811, wherein the polypeptide has aminopeptidase activity; and

b) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which is at least 95%[[90%]] identical to the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide has aminopeptidase activity; and

e) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 under stringent conditions comprising hybridization in 6x sodium chloride/sodium citrate at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C to 65°C, wherein the polypeptide has aminopeptidase activity.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended): The polypeptide of claim 12[[13]], wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polypeptide has aminopeptidase activity.

15. (Previously Presented): An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

16. (Previously Presented): An isolated polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

17. (Previously Presented): An isolated polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

18. (Previously Presented): An isolated polypeptide which is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-2811.

19. (Previously Presented): The polypeptide of claim 12, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

20. (Previously Presented): The polypeptide of claim 15, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented): The polypeptide of claim 17, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

23. (Canceled)